

Wells County Commissioners

Regular Session 7-18-2016

The Wells County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday July 18, 2016 at 9:30AM in the Commissioner's Room of the Wells County Carnegie Annex, Bluffton, IN. Those in attendance were Commissioners, Blake Gerber, Kevin Woodward and Tamara Robbins. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Roy Johnson and County Auditor, Beth Davis.

Minutes: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve the minutes from July 5, 2016 regular session. Motion carried 2-0-1; Kevin Woodward abstained since he was not present at the July 5, 2016 meeting.

Payroll And Claims: Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Blake Gerber to approve Payroll #15 in the amount of \$215,590.31 and 196 claims totaling \$624,336.58. Motion carried 3-0.

Wells County Sheriff: Sheriff Fisher reported 94 inmates, 5 are DOC and 15 are F6 DOC's. Sheriff Fisher informed the Commissioners that the Jail was hit by lightning during a storm and he is working with the insurance company on the damages.

Wells County Highway Supervisor: Ed Herman updated the commissioners on the three road conversion projects. They have the dirt work done; the base stone hauled and are currently hauling millings to put on top the base stone from Bluffton city streets. Ed informed the commissioners that they are working on 5 big pipe projects located at 450 E @ 900 N, 500 E @ 870 N, 350 S @ 760 E, 800 E @ 030 S, and 500 N @ 449 E.

Highway Engineer: Nate Rumschlag informed the Board of Commissioner's that he is applying for four projects through the INDOT Community Crossing Matching Grant Program. The county's 50% match on the four projects would be estimated at \$765,896. The four projects include replacement of bridge #2, replacement of bridge #203, 1.6 mile road conversion on county road 500 S, and road conversion on county roads 1200 S and 500 W. Nate has received a few letters of support to include with the application and he is still waiting on a few more before he submits it. The "Transportation Asset Management Plan" has also been completed by Nate and provided to the Board of Commissioners. A no charge change order was provided by INDOT for bridge No. 193. The change order was adding memorandum 16-06 to the contract for falsework removal. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the INDOT change order for Bridge No. 193. Motion carried 3-0. Nate asked the Commissioners if they have had a chance to review the update ADA Transition Plan that he had provided at the previous meeting. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the updated ADA Transition plan. Motion carried 3-0. Easements for the county road 1200 S road conversion project were provided to the board of commissioners for their approval. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the easements for the county road 1200 S road conversion project. Motion carried 3-0.

Economic Development Director: Chad Kline informed the Board of Commissioners that he has been working with Adams County on applying for a Bi-County workforce development grant that would include both Adams County and Wells County. The grant would be for workforce training opportunities on skilled positions like industrial maintenance and welding over a two year period. Chad asked the commissioners if they would contribute \$25,000 from the counties CEDIT fund to help support the

project. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to support the project if the grant is approved. Motion carried 3-0. Adams County is the administrator of the grant so they will provide the public notices on applying for the grant. Chad also requested \$50,000 from the CEDIT fund to help pay for paving on Harvest Road back to the expansion that was done by Metaldyne. Metaldyne added a 37,000 square-foot expansion at their location. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the request for \$50,000. Motion carried 3-0.

Geographic Information Systems Sharing Agreement: Area Plan/GIS Director Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. presented a Geographic Information Systems Sharing Agreement between Wells County Government and the City of Bluffton to the Board of Commissioners. The agreement allows the units of government to share GIS data with each other. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve the agreement. Motion carried 3-0.

Indiana Visionary Trail Project: Michael Lautzenheiser Jr. presented a letter to the Board of Commissioners for their signatures showing their support to the Indiana Visionary Trail Project. After some discussion regarding the wording on the letter, the commissioners asked Michael to change it showing that Wells County supports the City of Fort Wayne, Allen County and Fort Wayne Trails, Inc. application to the Regional Cities Initiative for their portion of the Indiana Visionary Trail Project. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the letter. Motion carried 3-0.

Employee Handbook Changes: Changes were presented to the Board of Commissioners regarding the employee handbook. The changes were in section 3.1 "Employment Status" stating that the County Council shall determine each position as exempt or nonexempt according to the job description. Other changes were made in section 3.6 "Overtime and Compensatory time" deleting the sentence about exempt employees being able to earn compensatory time off. Made changed to the sentence about comp time being used within the pay period earned to being used within 30 days unless approved by their supervisors. Other changes included changing the maximum accumulated comp time from 75 hours to 240 hours to follow FLSA guidelines and added that comp time in excess of 37 ½ hours shall be reported to the Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Tamara Robbins, seconded by Kevin Woodward to approve the changes to the employee Handbook. Motion carried 3-0.

Travel and Reimbursement Policy: The AIC Conference is in Fort Wayne, Indiana from September 26-29, 2016. The counties Travel and Reimbursement Policy currently states that reimbursement for hotel stays are for travel over 60 miles. Since the AIC Conference has nightly activities and networking with other county elected officials, the elected officials of Wells County are asking if the commissioners would approve reimbursement to hotels stays for the conference. Motion made by Kevin Woodward, seconded by Tamara Robbins to approve reimbursement for overnight hotel cost for elected official to attend the 2016 AIC conference in Fort Wayne Indiana. Motion carried 3-0.

Bargain Hut Parking Lot Bids: Acknowledged that bids have been received for the Bargain Hut parking lot and they will be opened at the next commissioners meeting.

Town of Poneto Road Paving Reimbursement: A request was received from the Town of Poneto to pay for a portion of a road they paved that is part of the county rather than the town of Poneto. The reimbursement request is for \$10,362. The commissioners will take this under advisement.

Adjourned: Wells County Commissioners adjourned at 10:25AM

Wells County Commissioners

President, Blake Gerber

Vice President, Kevin Woodward

Tamara Robbins

Attest: _____
Beth Davis, Wells County Auditor